Summary Record of the Third Meeting
held on April 21st, 1947 at 11 a.m.

1. Mr. HELMORE (United Kingdom) requested the Chairman's permission to refer, prior to consideration of the Agenda, to the meeting of Observers from Governments Members of the United Nations but not members of the Preparatory Committee, called by the Executive Secretary for 3.30 p.m. on April 21st. Mr. HELMORE considered it important that the participation of these official Observers in the work of this Session of the Preparatory Committee be made as real as possible in order to facilitate the participation of their respective Governments in the proposed World Conference on Trade and Employment. The views of official Observers had not, in his opinion, been given adequate consideration during the London Session owing to the pressure of business at that meeting. He felt, however, that this situation should, so far as possible, be corrected at the present Session. The Observers might, for example, be told that any written statements they put in would be carefully considered, and opportunities should be found for discussing these statements either in the Committee itself or by nominating certain Members of the Committee to discuss them.
with the Observers. The CHAIRMAN confirmed, in response to Dr. SPEEKENBRINK'S (Netherlands) query, that Mr. HELMORE'S remarks would not apply to tariff negotiations. Mr. WYNDHAM WHITE (Executive Secretary) expressed appreciation of Mr. Helmore's remarks which would be helpful to him in connection with the scheduled meeting of official Observers.

2. The Committee began consideration of the Agenda, Item 1:

Preliminary consideration of note by Executive Secretary on consultation with non-governmental organizations in Category A. E/PC/T/45. (Including draft letter to M. Jean Duret, World Federation of Trade Unions.)

Mr. WYNDHAM WHITE (Executive Secretary) suggested that, while Heads of Delegations might not be in a position at this meeting to reach agreed conclusions regarding the proposed arrangements for consultation during the present Session with non-governmental organizations in Category A, it would be desirable to agree the draft letter replying to M. Jean Duret, World Federation of Trade Unions representative.

3. Mr. HELMORE (United Kingdom) agreed that it was desirable to postpone the discussion on procedure, and regarded the draft reply to Mr. Duret appropriate with the exception of the last sentence which he proposed be deleted.
4. Dr. COOMBS (Australia), while not differing from the general views expressed in the draft letter to M. Duret, preferred a different emphasis on some points. For example, in the penultimate paragraph of the draft letter, opportunities for consultation during, rather than subsequent to, the current session should be emphasised. He agreed to submit to the Executive Secretary suggested drafting changes. It was important to give positive consideration to the views of Category A Observers, leaving no room for criticism in this respect, but he agreed that consideration of the precise means of consultation should be deferred.

5. Mr. NASH (New Zealand) suggested omission of the reference (at the bottom of the second page of the draft letter) to only two non-governmental organizations of the four represented having been invited to present views orally during the First Session of the Preparatory Committee, although this was factually correct.

6. Dr. HOLLOWAY (South Africa) expressed agreement with the draft letter. Regarding the method of consultation with Category A organizations, he believed the extent of their representatives' participation should be defined specifically. If M. Duret's remarks quoted in the draft letter were accepted, such Observers would be on much the same level as delegates from member countries. While every facility should be afforded to representatives of Category A organizations to express their views, he believed such Observers should not have the right to participate in Committee discussions or to interrogate the Committee or its members.
7. Dr. SPEEKENBRINK (Netherlands) proposed pointing out in the letter that no facilities would be provided for consultation regarding tariff discussions.

8. Mr. BIJADUC (France) agreed with the substance of the draft letter, but supported Dr. Coombs' remarks regarding the form of the letter.

9. Mr. WYNDHAM WHITE (Executive Secretary) explained that the suggestions made in the note on consultation with non-governmental organizations in Category A were based directly on the procedure adopted by the Economic and Social Council and were in accord with the decisions taken by the Preparatory Committee at its First Session. The Committee had assimilated itself to a Commission of the Council for this purpose. He believed the Delegate from South Africa had interpreted accurately the intention of this procedure and suggested his points could be met by the addition of a sentence pointing out that the procedure adopted does not give to non-governmental organizations any right to "participate regularly" in the work of the Council or its Commissions or to "interrogate" such bodies.
10. The Committee agreed that:

(a) the letter from the Chairman to M. Duret should be despatched after being redrafted by the Executive Secretary to take into account the Delegates' comments;

(b) the question of consultation with non-governmental organizations in Category A should be referred back to the Chairman's Committee for further consideration at an early date.

11. Item 2 of the Agenda:

Note by the Chairman on the Election of Vice-Chairmen E/PC/T/DeI72C.

The Committee agreed to adopt the Chairman's suggestion that Ambassador L.D. Wilgress, Principal Delegate for Canada, replace as a nominee Dr. Wunsz King, Principal Delegate for China, who had indicated his inability to accept nomination due to pressure of other work which might take him away from Geneva. Mr. MALIK (India) proposed that Sir Raghaven Pillai, Alternate Leader of the Indian Delegation, replace Mr. I.I. Chundrigar, Principal Delegate for India, as a nominee. Mr. Chundrigar was not likely to be able to be present for much of the Geneva Conference. On Mr. HELMORE'S (United Kingdom) motion it was agreed to delete the first paragraph on page 2 of the Note by the Chairman. On Dr. COOMB'S (Australia) motion, seconded by Dr. Speekenbrink (Netherlands), the Alternate Delegate for India was nominated as second Vice-Chairman, for the purpose of rules 8 and 9, instead of the Principal Delegate for China who had withdrawn. The Chairman's suggestions, as amended, were
accepted by the Committee.

12. Item 3 of the Agenda:


Mr. WILGROESS, Chairman of the Ad Hoc Working Party on Tariff Negotiations, presented the Working Party’s Report, reviewing its contents. The procedure by which the Working Party had discussed with delegations the possibility of advancing the dates on which negotiations could begin had proved successful, largely due to the co-operation of the delegations, enabling the Working Party to schedule thus far dates for the commencement of 96 out of a total of 120 possible tariff negotiations. The Working Party wished to emphasise that the submission of lists of requests on the dates indicated in Annex B was an essential condition if the schedule of negotiations was to be maintained. The Secretariat was now preparing for distribution to delegates a chart which would clarify the position regarding negotiations with Overseas territories for which members had an international responsibility, dates for which were not included in Annex A.
Delegates would recall that the Chairman's Committee had decided it would be a mistake to attempt to agree in final form at this stage the Memorandum on Procedures drafted during the London Session. The Working Party believed that some experience in actual negotiations was required before precise rules of procedure could be formulated and had therefore limited its consideration to certain minimum working rules:

(a) the way in which negotiations could be got under way;

(b) the role of the United Nations Secretariat in tariff negotiations;

(c) the basis on which lists of offers should be made available to delegations other than the delegations with which a particular delegation was then negotiating.

Regarding (a), the Working Party had agreed that the date on which two members met and exchanged lists of offers should be deemed to be the date on which negotiations commenced. Regarding (b), the Working Party had agreed that it should be obligatory upon each delegation to notify the Secretariat of all contemplated meetings so that the Secretariat could allocate rooms and be fully informed, for the benefit of the delegations, as to negotiations taking place. Regarding (c), the Working Party was of the opinion that, simultaneously with the exchange of
lists of offers between any two negotiating teams, each of
the two delegations should file with the Secretariat a copy
of the list of offers submitted, such list of offers not to
be divulged by the Secretariat to any delegations other than
those having commenced negotiations with the delegation
submitting the list of offers. There had been a difference
of opinion in the Working Party as to whether a delegation
entering negotiations with another delegation should provide
the latter with a list of all their offers, including those
to delegations with which the former intended to negotiate
but had not yet begun to do so. Some members of the Working
Party believed this procedure should be mandatory while
others preferred that it be discretionary. The final
sentence of the second paragraph on page 2 of the Report
had been worded so as to permit delegations to follow this
procedure within their discretion.

14. The Working Party suggested that, within his discretion,
the Chairman might wish to discuss with his Committee (Heads
of Delegations) - say, three or four weeks after negotiations
had been under way - the question of the future procedure
governing tariff negotiations in the light of negotiations
to date. They believed that, meanwhile, the Report of the
Working Party should be a sufficient guide.
15. The Working Party recommended further that the Preparatory Committee consider certain provisions of the Charter covering administrative and other technical questions clearly related to tariff negotiations prior to the Charter discussions scheduled tentatively for May 15. Since the text of the relevant Articles had not been agreed during the First Session but had been prepared by the Drafting Committee, the Working Party believed it would be desirable to put the Articles in question on the same basis as the rest of the Draft Charter prior to the beginning of Charter discussions.

16. Mr. "ASH (New Zealand) proposed that the second paragraph on page 2 of the Working Party Report be amended so as to make delegations solely responsible for the distribution of lists of offers. He agreed it would be in order to file simultaneously with the Secretariat, for information only, copies of all such lists.

17. The Committee agreed an amendment proposed by Mr. WYNDHAM WHITE (Executive Secretary) which would make delegations clearly responsible for the distribution of lists of offers, while specifying that the Secretariat should receive copies of lists of offers for information only.
18. Mr. Wu (China) advised the Committee that the dates listed in Annex A on which China had agreed to exchange lists of offers must be regarded as tentative. The Chinese Delegation was doing its utmost to meet the goal set but a few days margin might be required. Regarding Annex B, the Chinese Delegation had submitted lists of requests for concessions to all members except Lebanon-Syria. A new list of requests, revised in the light of the new Belgium-Netherlands-Luxemburg tariff schedules, would be submitted as soon as possible to Belgium and the Netherlands. The Chinese Delegation also planned to submit requests to the Overseas territories of the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and France.

19. Mr. Malik (India) advised the Committee that it would not be possible for India to commence negotiations with Lebanon-Syria on May 1st as scheduled in Annex A since the list of demands on India was still not available.

20. M. Baraduc (France) advised the Committee that the dates listed in Annex B for the submission of lists of requests as between Czechoslovakia and France were no longer applicable.

21. Consideration of Draft Press Communique
   (distributed at meeting).

   Mr. Wyndham White (Executive Secretary) recommended that he be authorised
(a) to issue a press communiqué based on the report of the Ad Hoc Working Party at a press conference on Tuesday, April 22nd, after the Preparatory Committee's Executive Session;  
(b) to release Annex A - at least the information regarding the 24 negotiations scheduled for the remainder of April - since the press would probably request more information as to the particular negotiations taking place once the draft press release was issued. On Mr. WILGRESS (Canada) motion, supported by Dr. HOLLOWAY (South Africa) and Mr. HELMORE (United Kingdom), the Committee agreed that all of Annex A should be released to the press. Mr. HELMORE (United Kingdom), supported by Dr. COOMBS (Australia), proposed that the reference in the draft press release to "preferential arrangements" should be deleted. It was agreed that interested Heads of Delegations would meet in the Executive Secretary's office at 4.30 that afternoon to discuss further the terms of the press release, particularly the paragraph referring to "preferential arrangements". *  
22. Mr. WILCOX (United States) suggested that it would be unfortunate if the Ad Hoc Working Party on Tariff Negotiations were to disband, even though it had now reported to the Chairman's Committee and thereby, presumably, discharged its responsibilities. He proposed that this Working Party, which  

* At this meeting it was agreed that the press communiqué should be confined to the release of Annex A and that the explanation should be made orally by the Executive Secretary at a Press Conference.
had made such a substantial contribution in drawing up the plan of work for tariff negotiations, be continued until such time as it might be necessary to consider setting up more elaborate machinery. Its terms of reference would be to ascertain and review at the end of each week the progress of all tariff negotiations and to report periodically to the Chairman's Committee (Heads of Delegations) until such time as it was deemed desirable by the Committee to make more formal arrangements. Mr. Ilcox's proposal was agreed by the Committee.

23. The meeting adjourned at 1 p.m.